

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

EXPEDITED PROCEDURE – Art Unit 2811

Attorney Docket No. 108298737US

Disclosure No. 03-0675.00/US

REMARKS

Claims 1-12 and 14-38 are presently pending in this application. Claims 14-25 have been amended. More specifically, claim 14 has been rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the corresponding base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 15-25 have been amended solely to change the dependencies of these claims. Claim 13 has been cancelled without commenting on or conceding the merits of the outstanding rejections. As such, this claim has been cancelled without prejudice to pursuing this claim in a continuation, divisional, or other application.

In the November 16, 2006 Office Action, claims 13 and 15-25 were rejected. More specifically, the status of the application in light of this Office Action is as follows:

- (A) Claims 1-12 and 26-38 have been allowed, and claim 14 was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form; and
- (B) Claims 13 and 15-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,682,065 to Farnworth et al. ("Farnworth") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,709,953 to Vasquez et al. ("Vasquez").

A. **Allowable Claims**

The applicant thanks the Examiner for allowing claims 1-12 and 26-38, and indicating that claim 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the features of its respective base claim and any intervening claims. Although the undersigned attorney agrees with the Examiner's conclusion that claims 1-12 and 26-38 are allowable, the undersigned attorney notes that these claims may be allowable for reasons other than those identified by the Examiner and does not concede that the Examiner's characterization of the terms of the claims and the prior art are correct.

Claim 14 has been rewritten in the stated form and is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, the objection to claim 14 should be withdrawn.

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B. Response to the Section 103(a) Rejection of Claims 13 and 15-25

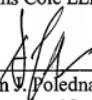
Claims 13 and 15-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Farnsworth and Vasquez. Claim 13 has been cancelled and, accordingly, the rejection of this claim is now moot. Claims 15-25 have been amended to depend from base claim 14. For at least the reasons discussed above, claim 14 is allowable. Accordingly, claims 15-25 are allowable for at least the reason that corresponding base claim 14 is allowable, and for the additional features of these dependent claims. Therefore, the Section 103 rejection of dependent claims 15-25 should be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, the pending claims comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112 and are patentable over the applied art. The applicant accordingly requests reconsideration of the application and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner has any questions or believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Aaron Poledna at (206) 359-3982.

Respectfully submitted,

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